

Patent Claims

1. A nucleic acid encoding the α -chain of hepatocyte growth factor or an N-terminal fragment thereof, characterized in that in said nucleic acid at least one of the codons of amino acids selected from the group consisting of
5 codons at positions 33, 35 and 36 is CGT.
2. A nucleic acid according to claim 1, characterized in that the codons of amino acids at positions 33, 35 and 36 are CGT.
3. Method for the production of α -chain of hepatocyte growth factor or an N-terminal fragment thereof (NK polypeptide) by expression of a nucleic acid
10 encoding said NK polypeptide in a microbial host cell, isolating of inclusion bodies containing said NK polypeptide in denatured form, solubilization of the inclusion bodies and naturation of the denatured NK polypeptide, characterized in that in said nucleic acid at least one of the codons of amino
15 acids selected from the group consisting of codons at positions 33, 35 and 36 is CGT.
4. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the codons of amino acids at positions 33, 35 and 36 are CGT.